

Father Knows Best

Dads, uncles, stepdads, grandpas . . .

You all have a special place in your children's life! Children who have men involved in their daily lives tend to be well adjusted and better equipped for success. You are important! Your interest and love does make a significant difference.

- **Play with your Child.** Children love it when you play with them. It can be playing board games or playing sports, or as simple as chasing around the yard or park. The important thing is that you are giving them your time, and that is what a child wants.
- **Be firm, but gentle.** Give your children rules and make sure your rules are clear to them. Explain your rules; it's important that children understand why they need to follow those rules. Be consistent with your rules and everything you do with them.
- **Be a father your children can talk to.** Can your children sit down and discuss their hopes, fears, dreams, aspirations and relationship issues with you? Not all children are able to communicate that well. For your children to open up to you, you need to open up to them, too. That does not mean you unburden your problems on your children, but what you should do is talk to them about your work or other everyday life issues. As they grow older, memories of those special times and conversations will be there for them to draw upon.

*These parenting tips are courtesy of
Franklin County Children Services' Communications Division.*

For information about:

24-hour child abuse hotline: (614) 229-7000

Adoption & foster care: (614) 341-6060

Volunteers & mentors: (614) 275-2690

Speakers or request for literature: (614) 275-2523



Protecting Children by Strengthening Families